

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE BOROUGH OF WEST VIEW ON ITS CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Borough of West View as it celebrates its centennial Anniversary.

West View will turn 100 years old on March 20th, 2005. The community will celebrate during the week of July 10th with a parade, picnics and fireworks that have been planned by the Centennial Celebration Committee. The Committee has been working very hard planning the festivities for over a year and the celebration promises to be a festive event.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in honoring the rich history and tradition of the Borough of West View. It is an honor to represent the Fourth Congressional District of Pennsylvania and a pleasure to congratulate West View on its 100th anniversary.

HONORING DAVID BENFER, FACHE, 2005 RECIPIENT OF THE TORCH OF LIBERTY AWARD

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today, in New Haven, Connecticut, friends, family and colleagues will gather to pay tribute to one of our community's most outstanding citizens. I am proud to stand today and join the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League as they honor David Benfer, FACHE with the 2005 Greater New Haven Torch of Liberty Award.

Each year, the Connecticut Anti-Defamation League presents the prestigious Torch of Liberty Award to an outstanding leader in the community, recognizing their unique commitment and dedication. As President and Chief Executive Officer of the Saint Raphael Hospital System, David manages one of New Haven's leading employers as well as one of the largest providers of healthcare in Connecticut. During his tenure of six years, Saint Raphael's has furthered its reputation as a clinical pioneer in cardiac, cancer, orthopedic, neurosciences, and geriatric services. The outstanding success of Saint Raphael's is a reflection of the deep commitment that David has demonstrated since his arrival just six years ago.

I have had the opportunity and honor to work with David on a number of projects. I am in awe of his unparalleled dedication. A trustee of the Catholic Health Association, an advocacy organization that represents more than two thousand Catholic healthcare facilities na-

tionwide, David recently asked me to get involved with a very special mission—the "Lend Your Voice" campaign, a national campaign to bring awareness to lawmakers of the seriousness of today's healthcare crisis. As the administrator of a healthcare facility, David knows only too well the plight of uninsured Americans. At a recent event he said, "This is not only a moral responsibility, but it is an economic opportunity to improve health care and reduce costs in the long run by providing care at the appropriate time." It is this leadership and vision that will continue to spark debate and, hopefully, allow for a time when every American is insured.

It is not only his professional contributions that have made David such a special member of our community. Arriving to New Haven only six years ago, David not only took on his responsibilities at Saint Raphael's, but immediately became involved in a number of local service organizations. The New Haven Symphony Orchestra, Community Soup Kitchen and the International Festival of Arts and Ideas are just some of those who benefit from having David as a member of their Boards. It is not often that you find individuals who so quickly and willingly delve into their new communities. With his compassion, generosity, and kind heart, David represents all that a community leader should be.

I am honored to rise today and join his wife, Mary, his three children, family, friends, and colleagues to pay tribute to David Benfer, FACHE for his many invaluable contributions. I cannot think of a more appropriate honor than the Torch of Liberty Award to recognize the generosity and commitment David has shown to our community.

THE SREBRENICA MASSACRE OF 1995, HOUSE RESOLUTION 199

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 19, 2005

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join our colleague and Chairman of the Helsinki Commission, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, in cosponsoring House Resolution 199, regarding the 1995 massacre at Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina.

For us, the congressional debates regarding the nature of the Bosnian conflict and what the United States and the rest of the international community should do about it are increasingly part of history. Now focused on other challenges around the globe, it is easy to forget the prominence of not only Bosnia, but the Balkans as a whole, on our foreign policy agenda.

It would be a mistake, however, to ignore the reality of Srebrenica ten years later to those who were there and experienced the horror of having sons, husbands, fathers taken away never to be seen again. Their loss is made greater by the failure to apprehend and

transfer to The Hague for trial people like Ratko Mladic and Radovan Karadzic who were responsible for orchestrating and implementing the policies of ethnic cleansing.

Following the Srebrenica massacre, the United States ultimately did the right thing by taking the lead in stopping the bloodshed and in facilitating the negotiation of the Dayton Agreement, the tenth anniversary of which will likely be commemorated this November. Thanks in large measure to the persistence of the U.S. Congress and despite the resistance of some authorities particularly in Belgrade and Banja Luka, cooperation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia remains a necessary precondition for improved bilateral ties and integration into NATO and the European Union. Meanwhile, the United States and many other countries have contributed significant resources, including money and personnel, to the region's post-conflict recovery.

It is therefore appropriate that we, as the leaders of the Helsinki Commission, introduce and hopefully pass this resolution on Srebrenica ten years later, not only to join with those who continue to mourn and seek closure, but also to understand why we have done what we have done since then, and, more importantly, to learn the lesson of failing to stand up to those in the world who are willing to slaughter thousands of innocent people. The atrocities committed in and around Srebrenica in July 1995, after all, were allowed to happen in what the United Nations Security Council itself designated as a "safe area."

In confirming the indictments of Mladic and Karadzic, a judge from the international tribunal reviewed the evidence submitted by the prosecutor. His comments were included in the United Nations Secretary General's own report of the fall of Srebrenica, which described the UN's own responsibility for that tragedy. Let me repeat them here:

After Srebrenica fell to besieging Serbian forces in July 1995, a truly terrible massacre of the Muslim population appears to have taken place. The evidence tendered by the Prosecutor describes scenes of unimaginable savagery: thousands of men executed and buried in mass graves, hundreds of men buried alive, men and women mutilated and slaughtered, children killed before their mothers' eyes . . . These are truly scenes from hell, written on the darkest pages of history.

Regardless of one's views of the Yugoslav conflicts—who started the conflicts, why, and what our response should have been—there is no denying that what happened to the people of Srebrenica was a crime for which there are no reasonable explanations, no mitigating circumstances, no question of what happened. As a result, it is inconceivable to me that anybody can defend Radovan Karadzic or Ratko Mladic, let alone protect them from arrest.

There should also be no mistake, Mr. Speaker, that Srebrenica was only the worst of many incidents which took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina from 1992 to 1995. Like the

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